



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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July 23, 2015

TO: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
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FROM: Max Huntsman
Inspector General

SUBJECT: REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT DATA SHARING PROJECT

On December 31, 2014, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) issued a report entitled "Recommendation to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for Public Data Disclosure." That report recommended that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) increase transparency by regularly disclosing, as a necessary minimum for a public data disclosure program, data on following subject areas:

- Deputy-involved shootings, including details such as the number of deputies involved, and their length of service.
- Uses of force, including canine bites and any force resulting in broken bones, as well as the injuries sustained, the number of deputies involved, and the method of force.
- Complaints against deputies and other employees, including numbers, category of employee, types of complaints, types of investigation conducted, findings of investigations, corrective action taken.
- Discipline imposed by the Department on employees for misconduct.

This is our six month follow-up and update on the status of this project and is a public report.

Our initial report detailed best practices by law enforcement agencies both within and outside of California that were comparable to the Department in size and resources.

We concluded that detailed information sharing has been adopted by many law enforcement agencies and that the Department can and should disclose more information to the public. We recommended that the Department formulate a comprehensive transparency plan with a reasonable timeline of objectives and that the plan include a clear user-friendly design for public sharing of this information through the Department's website.

In January 2015, shortly after the publication of and in response to our report, Sheriff Jim McDonnell announced that the Department intends to release and post the recommended information and data on the lasd.org website. In the months following our report, attorneys from the OIG met frequently with Department officials from the Professional Standards Division who were working on gathering information and creating the format for its release.¹ During these meetings, the OIG was advised that the first module of information to be released is the deputy-involved-shootings data.² Deputy-involved-shootings data was chosen because it is the most readily available and will enable the Department to quickly share this information with the public.

The specific data to be released in the deputy involved shootings category has evolved over the months. This is partly due to recommendations made by the OIG and adopted by the Department to add additional fields of data such as a deputy's age and previous shootings. At all points during our meetings, the Department has accepted and implemented our recommendations for the deputy involved shootings module.

Currently, the Department intends to perform a one month beta testing period commencing in July during which invited stakeholders and specifically the research and academic sector, may provide feedback and input prior to a public release. The Department hopes to launch this data officially on its public website in September 2015.

In addition, the LASD is appointing a Chief Data Officer and identifying staff to support the sustained effort to add to and update the public data in support of the Sheriff's mandate for transparency. The Department is requesting five staffing positions in the revised budget in September 2015.

The next three modules which were recommended by the OIG including uses of force, complaints from members of the public and employee discipline are set for release as the collection of data nears completion in the coming months. The Department has advised the OIG that there will be a continuing effort to gather and release additional categories of significant data such as traffic and pedestrian stops which number in the tens of thousands.

¹ There has been a collaborative effort within Department of sworn and professional staff members from Professional Standards Division, Internal Affairs Bureau, Risk Management Bureau, Technology and Support Division, Data Systems Bureau, Sheriff's Information Bureau, the Office of the Executive Officer and the Office of the Sheriff, who have supported this project with over 1,500 working hours.

² The categories within this module include hit and non-hit shootings, warning shots, other shootings, animal shootings and unintentional discharges.

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We look forward to continuing our work with the Department in the release of the remaining data and information. At a future date we intend to evaluate whether the Department is effectively following through on its initial commitment to much greater transparency regarding data.

MH:BS:sg

c: Jim McDonnell, Sheriff
Sachi A. Hamai, Interim Chief Executive Officer
Patrick Ogawa, Acting Executive Officer
Mary C. Wickham, Interim County Counsel